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The Gift of
The Directors,
Hiram A. Tenney,
Secretary,
22 Feb., 1867.


BRICHER

A

STATEMENT OF THE PROCEEDINGS

RESULTING IN THE PURCHASE OF THE

Newburyport Public Library Building.

WITH A SKETCH OF

THE HISTORY OF THE LIBRARY.

PREPARED BY ORDER OF THE DIRECTORS, FOR PRIVATE DISTRIBUTION.

"Books are a part of man's prerogative:
In formal ink, they thought and voices hold,
That we to them our solitude may give,
And make time present travel that of old.
Our life, fame pieceth longer at the end
And books it farther backward doth extend."

NEWBURYPORT:
WM. H. HUSE & CO., PRINTERS, 42 STATE STREET.
1866.

B8469.3.8



INTRODUCTORY.

It was intended, when the building designed for the use of the Newburyport Public Library was completed, that a formal dedication of it should take place. That purpose, however, was frustrated through the pressing professional engagements of the distinguished gentleman who was to have delivered the address. The delay occasioned thereby was so prolonged, that it was finally deemed advisable to dispense altogether with the dedication. The following pages have, in consequence, been prepared by order of the Directors of the Library, for the purpose of giving publicity and permanency to a statement of the prominent facts in relation to the purchase of the building, and its preparation for its present use. This is considered due to those by whose public spirit and generosity the work was undertaken and successfully completed.

The accomplishment of an enterprise of great public usefulness, through the agency of private contributions, is deemed worthy of record to the lasting honor of those engaged in it. Great pains have been taken, therefore, to include the names of all who have rendered assist-

ance in the undertaking in the following pages. If, however, any such individuals have failed to receive an appropriate acknowledgment for their share in the work, no one will regret the omission more deeply than the writer. While desiring in the following pages to avoid the appearance of invidiousness, where all have contributed so freely, it is nevertheless felt that some special mention of the important services rendered by EDWARD S. MOSELEY, Esq., is justly due. At great personal sacrifice, he undertook the collection of the funds, and also supervised their expenditure. One of the first to discern the wants of the Library, Mr. MOSELEY has been foremost and indefatigable in his efforts to secure for it its present tasteful and commodious quarters.

H. A. T.

NEWBURYPORT, Nov. 1, 1866.

THE NEWBURYPORT

PUBLIC-LIBRARY BUILDING.

Soon after the Newburyport Public Library went into operation, it was found (so great was the demand for its books, and so apparent the prospect of its future increase) that the room it then occupied would prove entirely inadequate for its purposes, and that larger and better accommodations would shortly be needed. The subject, therefore, began at that time to interest some of the more zealous friends of the Library; and inquiries were instituted relative to the best means for obtaining a building that should be suited to its growing wants. An appeal to the city authorities to supply the requisite funds was considered impolitic, inasmuch as it was felt that the ordinary demands upon the city treasury were already onerous. The general desire, therefore, seemed to be, that some feasible mode of raising the money, without resort to public taxation, should be adopted.

As no organized body existed for the purpose, it was necessarily incumbent upon individual effort to

commence the undertaking. Consequently, EDWARD S. MOSELEY, Esq., in the spring of 1858, with a view of stimulating others to similar action, pledged a donation, on the condition that a sum sufficient to accomplish the object should be obtained in the same way. But the offer not being made sufficiently public, or for some other reason, the necessary responses were not received; and thus no definite result was attained. Various other propositions were considered; but, as none of them gave promise of ultimate success, they were not adopted. In the mean time, each successive Annual Report of the Directors of the Public Library continued to set forth its pressing need of better accommodations.

Thus things remained until the close of the lecture-season of 1859–60, when it was proposed to use the Lyceum as an agency, and by that means to secure a sufficient amount to serve as a nucleus; to which might be added whatever sums should in the future be obtained, and finally devote the whole amount towards providing a building for the Library. Accordingly, at the Annual Meeting of the Newburyport Lyceum, held on the 10th of February, 1860, the following resolution, offered by GEORGE J. L. COLBY, Esq., was unanimously adopted: —

"*Resolved*, That the officers of the Lyceum invite persons, who, from being natives or residents of Old Newbury, or from some other cause, are interested in the welfare of this community, to deliver lectures gratuitously; the pro-

ceeds of the sale of tickets to be devoted to the erection of a building, to be owned by the city, for the better accommodation of the Public Library."

A course of lectures was instituted the next season, in conformity with the resolution; which resulted in placing five hundred and seventy-six dollars and eighty-five cents to the credit of a Library-building Fund. The following are the names of the lecturers whose services were gratuitous: —

*C. C. FELTON, *President of Harvard University.*

Rev. J. C. FLETCHER, *Newburyport.*

Hon. C. CUSHING, *Newburyport.*

*Rt. Rev. T. M. CLARK, *Bishop of Rhode Island.*

*ARTHUR GILMAN, Esq., *Boston.*

Rev. ORVILLE DEWEY, D.D.

Dr. GEORGE B. LORING, *Salem.*

*DANIEL N. HASKELL, Esq., *Boston.*

Hon. STEPHEN H. PHILLIPS, *Salem.*

Rev. A. H. QUINT, *New Bedford.*

†Rev. E. A. WASHBURN, D.D., *Rector Calvary Church, N. Y.*

†C. W. TUTTLE, Esq., *Boston.*

†Rev. T. B. FOX, *Boston.*

Rev. A. P. PEABODY, D.D., *Professor Harvard University.*

*Rev. R. W. CLARK, D.D., *Albany, N. Y.*

*Rev. BENJ. HALE, D.D., *President of Hobart College, N. Y.*

Rev. R. C. WATERSTON, *Boston.*

* Those marked thus * are natives of "Old Newbury." Those marked † have been residents of Newburyport.

The same plan was continued for the two following seasons, which increased the fund to a thousand and thirty-eight dollars and seventeen cents. The lecturers were —

*Rt. Rev. T. M. CLARK, D.D., *Bishop of Rhode Island.*
*Hon. GEORGE LUNT, *Boston.*
Rev. S. R. CALTHROP, *Marblehead.*
Dr. GEORGE B. LORING, *Salem.*
*AMOS NOYES, Esq., *Newburyport.*
†Rev. ELIAS NASON, *Exeter, N.H.*
*JOHN J. CURRIER, Esq., *Newburyport.*
Rev. M. SKINNER, *Gloucester.*
Rev. THOMAS HILL, D.D., *President of Harvard University.*
C. F. BROWN, Esq. ("Artemus Ward.")
Rev. J. C. FLETCHER, *Newburyport.*
Rev. R. H. NEALE, D.D., *Boston.*
*Rev. GEORGE D. WILDES, *Salem.*
Rev. CHARLES BEECHER, *Georgetown.*
Rev. JAMES N. SYKES, *Newburyport.*
Prof. J. R. LOWELL, *Harvard University.*

Here, then, was a fund of upwards of one thousand dollars deposited for use in providing a Library Building. A moderate sum, indeed, for the purpose; yet, when considered as the foundation of the enterprise, it assumes more than a relative importance, inasmuch as it gave renewed encouragement to the hope, that, with persevering efforts, ultimate success might confidently be expected.

At this juncture, Mr. MOSELEY again came forward with a subscription-list, headed with his own name and subscription of one thousand dollars. With this he applied to persons of wealth at home, and to others, who, being either natives or former residents of our city, had met with success in life elsewhere. The responses which followed were of the most cheering character, as will be seen by the annexed copy of the circular and subscription-list: —

NEWBURYPORT, Sept. 12, 1863.

The undersigned hereby agree to pay the sums set against their respective names, for the purpose of building or purchasing a suitable building for the Public Library, provided the sum of ten thousand dollars is subscribed before the close of the present year. The money is to be expended under the direction of a committee appointed for that purpose, and the building presented to the city under such limitations as may be thought advisable.

NEWBURYPORT.

EDWARD S. MOSELEY	$1,000
EDWARD S. RAND	1,000
JOSIAH L. AND JOSHUA HALE	1,000
JOHN PORTER	1,000
CALEB, JOHN N., AND WILLIAM CUSHING	1,000
CHARLES H. COFFIN	500
ROBERT AND CHARLES M. BAYLEY	500
Mrs. NANCY HORTON	500
JOHN CURRIER, Jun.	500
MICAJAH LUNT	500
Mrs. SARAH W. HALE	250
JOSIAH LITTLE	250
HENRY COOK	200
WILLIAM GRAVES	200

Eben F. Stone	$100
Benjamin F. Currier	100
Moses E. Hale	100
Albert W. Stevens	100
George L. Rogers	100
William Forbes	100
Henry C. Perkins	100
Mark Symons	100
Jeremiah Colman	100
William Ashby	100
John Osgood	100
R. Wills and Son	100
John N. Pike	50
Amos Noyes	50
Nathan A. Moulton	50
William H. Swasey	50
David Wood	30
Edward H. and George J. George	10

LONDON.

William Wheelwright	$1,000
Mrs. M. G. Wheelwright	1,000

SAN FRANCISCO.

John R. Spring	$1,000

BOSTON.

John Atkinson	$500
William P. Pierce	500
Michael H. Simpson	500
Stephen Tilton and Co.	500
Samuel Stevens	250
James Reed	250
George W. A. Williams	250
Balch W. Pierce	250
George W. Wheelwright	200
Stephen W. Marston, Jun.	100
Charles G. Wood	50

ANDREW L. HASKELL	$50
JOHN M. BRADBURY	50
N. FOSTER, Jun.	25
R. B. WILLIAMS, Jun.	25
JOHN TILTON	25
JOHN H. BRADBURY	10
CALEB NORRIS	10
S. K. WHIPPLE	5
GEORGE BUTLER	5
E. P. WILBUR	5

NEW YORK.

DANIEL I. TENNEY	$500
JACOB LITTLE	500

PHILADELPHIA.

LEMUEL COFFIN	$500
GEORGE A. WOOD	250

CLEVELAND.

JOSEPH B. HERVEY	$150

WASHINGTON.

WILLIAM B. TODD	$100

By this means, the sum of eighteen thousand three hundred and seventy-five dollars was obtained; which, added to the amount already on hand (subsequent additions having been received from the Lyceum), made the whole amount twenty thousand two hundred and seventy-three dollars and seventy-eight cents: and the funds for accomplishing the work were thus fully secured. The necessary means having been obtained, the next step was, either to purchase a building suitable for library-purposes, or a

location on which one could be built. In this the parties were eminently fortunate in finding the "Tracy House," so called, situated on State Street, for sale; which was accordingly purchased.

A meeting of the subscribers to the fund was now held to take the necessary action in relation to the premises; at which EDWARD S. MOSELEY was chosen Chairman; and HIRAM A. TENNEY, Secretary. The meeting then proceeded to select a Building Committee; and the following-named gentlemen were chosen: EDWARD S. MOSELEY, CHARLES M. BAYLEY, and JOSHUA HALE, Committee. M. E. HALE consented to act as Treasurer.

In commencing the work, the Committee made application to ARTHUR GILMAN, Esq., of Boston, a native of Newburyport, to prepare the plans for altering the building; which he promptly consented to do, making no charge for his services.

The plans were furnished by Mr. GILMAN for the alteration of the exterior, and for the arrangement and finish of the interior, and found to be highly satisfactory. Operations, therefore, were soon commenced under the superintendence of Hon. ALBERT CURRIER, whose services were rendered gratuitously; and to whose mechanical experience, and economy of management, the accomplishment of the undertaking, with so great a degree of artistic skill and with such a moderate expenditure, is mainly due.

The opinion has been expressed by persons who understand the subject, that such a structure could not have been commenced anew and completed at less than twice the cost of the present one. The frontispiece presents a good view of the new building. Its exterior walls are covered with a coating of mastic, giving the appearance of sandstone, which greatly enhances the beauty of its fine architectural proportions. The appearance of the grounds, also, has been changed, so as to comport with the improvements in the rest of the estate.

In the corner-stone of the building was deposited a small leaden box, which, in the distant future, may be of interest to those who shall open it. The box encloses a silver plate, with the following inscription: —

THIS BUILDING,

INTENDED FOR THE

PUBLIC LIBRARY,

IS A FREE GIFT TO THE CITY FROM PERSONS WHOSE NAMES ARE DEPOSITED IN THE SMALL BOX HEREWITH.

DIRECTORS OF LIBRARY.

GEORGE W. JACKMAN, JUN., MAYOR,
L. DAME, PRES. COM. COUNCIL, } EX OFFICIO.

D. T. FISKE. P. K. HILLS.
WM. CUSHING. J. N. PIKE.
C. M. BAYLEY. JOSHUA HALE.

LIBRARIAN.

HIRAM A. TENNEY.

BUILDING COMMITTEE.

EDWARD S. MOSELEY, JOSHUA HALE, C. M. BAYLEY.

ARCHITECT.

ARTHUR GILMAN.

SUPERINTENDENT.

ALBERT CURRIER.

NEWBURYPORT, April 6, 1865.

The box referred to contains the names of all the subscribers, inscribed on parchment, with their places of residence, and the several amounts given by them. With a single exception, they are all natives or residents of Newburyport.

In addition to the above, it contains a list of all the officers connected with the City Government of 1865; a report of the Library Committee of 1864; a copy of "The Newburyport Herald;" and a copy of "The Herald of Gospel Liberty," published in this city,— the oldest religious newspaper in the world.

On the 17th of July, 1865, the work being completed, and the building ready to be transferred to the city, a meeting of the subscribers to the fund was held, due notice having been previously given to each party interested, in order to arrange suitable terms for its transfer.

At this meeting, after a report of the expenditure of money raised by subscription had been made by the chairman, on motion of JOSIAH L. HALE, Esq., it was *Voted*, That, in offering the building to the city, one condition of its acceptance shall be, that it never shall be opened for public use on the Lord's Day. On motion of Hon. MICAJAH LUNT, it was further *Voted*, That the subject of other conditions be referred to the Building Committee to prepare a suitable statement, and report at the next meeting of the subscribers. Hon. C. CUSHING was also added to that committee.

On the 14th of August following, another meeting in reference to the same subject was held, at which Mr. CUSHING, for the committee, submitted a report, as follows: "That the estate be conveyed to the Mayor and Aldermen, as trustees, with the following provisoes:" —

First, That it shall forever be dedicated exclusively to use as the City Library, and for the reception of appropriate objects of science and art.

Second, That the library shall be administered by a Board of Directors chosen by the City Council.

Third, That the library shall not be open for public use on the Lord's Day.

Fourth, That the surplus cash in the hands of the committee shall be conveyed to three trustees by name, which trustees shall fill vacancies in that Board; the income of the fund to be appropriated for the maintenance, repair, improvement, and insurance of the edifice.

Fifth, That the said three trustees shall be members of the Board of Directors of the library, in addition to those chosen by the City Council.

A meeting of a committee appointed by the City Council, for the purpose of conferring with a committee of the subscribers, was subsequently held, and attended by Hon. GEORGE W. JACKMAN, *Mayor;* WARREN CURRIER, *Alderman;* LUTHER DAME, JOHN E. BAYLEY, and J. T. ROWE, *Common Councilmen*, on the part of the City Council; and EDWARD S. MOSELEY and Hon. C. CUSHING, on the part of subscri-

bers. At this meeting, the conditions of transfer prepared by the subscribers to the Library-building Fund were approved by the committee of the City Council, to be recommended to the City Government for adoption.

On the 4th of September, the estate was presented to the City Government by the following deed: —

Know all men by these presents, —

That we, EDWARD S. MOSELEY, JOSHUA HALE, and CHARLES M. BAYLEY, all of Newburyport, in the County of Essex, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, for good and lawful considerations us hereunto moving, do hereby give, grant, and convey unto the Mayor and Aldermen of the city of Newburyport for the time being, all the right, title, and interest which we have in and to a certain piece of land, with the buildings thereon, situate in said Newburyport, and bounded as follows; namely: —

Beginning at the southerly corner thereof, on State Street, by land of DANA DODGE and WILLIAM DODGE; and thence running by said last-mentioned land, and by land of MOSES EMERY, deceased, north 52° 15′ west, one hundred and sixty-eight feet eight inches, to land of the heirs of BENJAMIN HALE, deceased; thence, by said heirs' land, north 36° 30′ east, ninety-eight feet five inches; thence, by said heirs' land, south 57° east, one hundred and sixty-two feet three inches, to said State Street; thence, by said State Street, south 32° 45′ west, one hundred and twelve feet two inches, to the bound first mentioned; containing, in all, sixty-three rods and $\frac{89}{100}^{\text{ths}}$ of a rod; being the same conveyed to us by JERE-

MIAH COLMAN and WILLIAM ASHBY by deed of April 16, A. D. 1864.

To have and to hold the above-granted premises to the said Mayor and Aldermen, and their successors in office, to them and their use and behoof forever. In trust, nevertheless, for the subscribers to the fund for a Public-library Building, under and subject to the following conditions; namely: —

First, That all the property and estate conveyed shall be dedicated, and appropriated in perpetuity, to use exclusively for the City Library, and for the reception of suitable objects of science and art.

Secondly, That the library shall not be open for public use on the Lord's Day.

Thirdly, That the library shall be administered by a Board of Directors chosen and appointed by the City Council, together with the three persons, or their successors, constituted by the subscribers to be trustees of the surplus fund of subscription.

And we, the said grantors, for ourselves, and our heirs, executors, and administrators, do covenant with the said grantees, and their successors in office, that we are lawfully seized in fee-simple of the aforegranted premises; that they are free from all encumbrances done or suffered by us; that we have good right to give, grant, and convey the same to the said grantees, and their successors in office, forever, as aforesaid; and that we will, and our heirs, executors, and administrators shall, warrant and defend the same to the said grantees, and their successors in office, forever, against the lawful claims and demands of all persons claiming the same by, from, or under us.

In witness whereof, we, EDWARD S. MOSELEY, JOSHUA HALE, and CHARLES M. BAYLEY, and we, CHARLOTTE A., wife of said EDWARD, and SOPHIA C., wife of said JOSHUA, and CHARLOTTE C., wife of said CHARLES, in token of our release of all right and title of and to both dower and homestead in the abovegranted premises, have hereunto set our hands and seals, this twenty-second day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five.

Signed, sealed, and delivered in presence of

CHARLES THURLOW,
B. GARDINER GERRISH, } *Witnesses.*

EDWARD S. MOSELEY.
JOSHUA HALE.
CHARLES M. BAYLEY.
CHARLOTTE A. MOSELEY.
SOPHIA C. HALE.
CHARLOTTE C. BAYLEY.

Stamp.

L. S.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS,
Essex *ss.*, 22d Sept., 1865.

Then personally appeared the within-named EDWARD S. MOSELEY, JOSHUA HALE, and CHARLES M. BAYLEY, and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be their free act and deed.

Before me,

M. E. HALE,
Justice of the Peace.

An order was then passed by the City Council in acceptance of the gift: —

CITY OF NEWBURYPORT.

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN, Sept. 4, 1865.

Ordered (the Common Council concurring), That the Mayor and this Board, in behalf of themselves and their successors in office, hereby accept the conveyance of property and estate for the reception of the Public Library, made to us this day by EDWARD S. MOSELEY, JOSHUA HALE, and CHARLES M. BAYLEY, in trust, subject to the conditions therein prescribed; and, for ourselves and our successors, assume said trust, to be executed according to the conditions of said conveyance.

In Board of Aldermen, Sept. 4, 1865.

Adopted. Attest: E. JOHNSON,

City Clerk.

In Common Council, Sept. 4, 1865.

Adopted in concurrence. Attest:

A. W. GREENLEAF, *Clerk.*

The following ordinance, in conformity to the terms of the deed, was also passed at the same date:—

CITY OF NEWBURYPORT.

AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Be it ordained by the City Council of the city of Newburyport as follows:—

In addition to the number of the Board of Directors of the Public Library, as now constituted, shall be members thereof, *ex officio*, the three persons appointed by deed of the subscribers to the fund for a Public-library Building, to hold in trust the overplus funds provided by said subscribers for the reparation and improvement of said building,

and their successors in office, conformably to the tenor of said trust-deed; provided that a duplicate copy of said deed shall be filed with the City Clerk, and that due notice of all changes of said trustees shall be communicated by them in writing, addressed to the City Council.

In Common Council, Sept. 4, 1865.

Passed to be ordained.

LUTHER DAME, *President.*

In Board of Aldermen, Sept. 4, 1865.

Passed to be ordained.

GEO. W. JACKMAN, *Mayor.*

On the 2d of October, a meeting of the subscribers to the fund was held, to make choice of three trustees, agreeably to the conditions of transfer of the Library Building to the city.

MONDAY, Oct. 2, 1865.

Meeting called to order at half-past four o'clock, P.M. Records of the previous meeting read and approved.

On motion of JOSIAH L. HALE, Esq., it was *Voted*, That a committee of three be appointed to nominate a list of three candidates, to be balloted for as trustees of the surplus fund. Messrs. J. L. HALE, JOHN CURRIER, Jun., M. SYMONS, were appointed by the Chair.

The committee reported the names of EDWARD S. MOSELEY, CALEB CUSHING, HENRY C. PERKINS; who were unanimously chosen.

Voted, That the trustees be authorized to expend annually the sum of fifty dollars, to supply magazines and reviews, at their discretion.

On motion of JOSIAH L. HALE, it was *Voted*, That the

trustees be required to make an annual report of the state of the fund, with any expenditures from the income of the same, to be published in connection with the Annual Report of the Directors of the Library.

Voted, That the accounts of the late acting treasurer of the fund be audited by the trustees now chosen.

On motion of Hon. MICAJAH LUNT, it was *Voted*, That all matters relating to questions that may arise in reference to the care of the Library Building, or other general interests appertaining thereto, be placed in the hands of the trustees now chosen; and that they be empowered to make such arrangements of the same, and also such expenditures from the income of the fund, as they may deem expedient.

Adjourned.

H. A. TENNEY, *Secretary*.

The following deed was passed, conveying the balance of the fund, amounting to five thousand dollars, from the hands of the Building Committee to the trustees: —

DEED OF TRUST.

Whereas certain persons, with a view of donating a suitable building to the city of Newburyport for the Public Library, subscribed sums of money for that purpose, and at a meeting duly notified, held on the third day of February, A.D. 1864, appointed EDWARD S. MOSELEY, JOSHUA HALE, and CHARLES M. BAYLEY, a committee, with full powers to carry their views into effect; and whereas, in pursuance thereof, the building has been purchased and prepared, and a deed thereof, on certain conditions, has been given to the city, leaving, however, money in the hands of said committee unexpended: —

Now, this indenture, made and concluded this thirteenth day of October, A.D. 1865, by and between said MOSELEY, HALE, and BAYLEY, in their official capacity as the representatives of the subscribers, party of the first part; and EDWARD S. MOSELEY, CALEB CUSHING, and HENRY C. PERKINS, subsequently chosen by said subscribers at a meeting duly called for that purpose, — namely, on the second day of October, A.D. 1865, — as trustees of the unexpended balance of said subscription, party of the second part, —

Witnesseth, That for and in consideration of the sum of one dollar to them, the said committee, paid by the said trustees (the receipt whereof the said party of the first part doth hereby acknowledge), the said committee — namely, MOSELEY, HALE, and BAYLEY — hath given, granted, and conveyed, and by these presents doth hereby give, grant, and convey, unto the said MOSELEY, CUSHING, and PERKINS, trustees, and to their successors, the balance of the funds subscribed and unexpended by said committee, amounting to five thousand dollars, or thereabouts; provided always, and these presents are on this condition nevertheless, that the said trustees, party of the second part, shall keep the principal of the same invested, according to their best judgment, either by depositing in any savings bank, or by investments now authorized by this Commonwealth for such institutions, with power to expend the income thereof in the repair of the Library Building, or its general maintenance, in accordance with votes heretofore passed by the said subscribers; making an annual report to the Directors of the Public Library of their action in the premises; with the authority, on the resignation or decease of any one of the said trustees, for the survivors to appoint his successor with full powers to act as aforesaid; and in case of the death or

resignation of two of said trustees, without the vacancy thereby created having been filled, then the sole survivor shall have power to fill both vacancies.

And in case the places of all of the trustees become vacant, then new trustees may be appointed by the Supreme Judicial Court, on application of the city of Newburyport. And it is further agreed, that the city of Newburyport shall have right at any time to make due application to the Supreme Judicial Court for the prevention or correction of any act of malfeasance in the execution of said trust; said court to have the same jurisdiction in the premises as in other matters of trust, under the statutes of the Commonwealth.

In witness whereof, the parties aforesaid have hereunto set their hands and seals, this thirteenth day of October, A. D. 1865.

Signed, sealed, and delivered in presence of

M. E. HALE.

EDWARD S. MOSELEY.
JOSHUA HALE.
CHARLES M. BAYLEY.
EDWARD S. MOSELEY.
CALEB CUSHING.
HENRY C. PERKINS.

Stamp.

L. S.

In conclusion, it may be said that the conversion of the Tracy House to the use of the Public Library is an event that our citizens may regard with just pride and satisfaction. Its location could not be excelled. Situated on a prominent thoroughfare of business, it is at the same time so retired from the noise of the street as to secure a proper degree of

seclusion and quiet to visitors in their use of the library. Its historical associations render its appropriation to such a purpose an event of peculiar interest. Built a century since, it stands a fitting representative of the few palatial structures which the country at that time afforded. Clustering around its walls, too, are memories of many who have gone from its precincts, and added lustre to the ancient fame of our city. Names might also be added of persons of high distinction from abroad, who have found beneath its hospitable roof a temporary home.

The edifice, therefore, now blends its own measure of renown in the past with the popular daily life of the present; while each will be hallowed to the distant future by the benign influence, which, like incense from a shrine, arises from the noble work to which it is now devoted.

Thus, as an enduring testimony of their affectionate regard for the well-being of the home of their childhood, the BENEFICENT DONORS have fitted up this building with taste and convenience, and have presented it a FREE GIFT to the city, to be hereafter known as the NEWBURYPORT PUBLIC-LIBRARY BUILDING.

NOTE. — This estate, although allowed of late years to fall somewhat into neglect, was formerly supported in a style of almost princely grandeur. The house was built by PATRICK TRACY, an opulent merchant of that day, for his son NATHANIEL, who occupied it, and through whose great wealth and unbounded hospitality it acquired a wide celebrity. NATHANIEL

TRACY was a gentleman of high character and standing, contributing very greatly by his public spirit towards the improvement of his native town. He married a lady belonging to one of the first families of the State. She was reputed to be a lady of great personal beauty, and was the daughter of the illustrious patriot of our Revolution, Col. LEE of Marblehead. Mr. TRACY was at one time the owner of a hundred and ten merchant-vessels, a part of which were used as letters-of-marque during the Revolutionary War. So Midas-like did he appear to accumulate his riches, that he seemed justified in lavishing vast sums to maintain his establishment in the most sumptuous manner. His stables were famed for containing the most spirited horses and finest equipages of the day; and the grounds were the most beautiful in Essex County. In front of the mansion were ornamental trees which he imported from England; and the garden in the rear, stocked with the choicest fruit-trees, which were also imported, was the local wonder of the time. Throughout the whole, there was displayed an air of aristocratic taste and luxurious habit, rivalling the establishments of the Dutch burgomasters of an earlier date. Mr. TRACY had an admirable farm in Newbury, and another in Medford. He was also the owner of the Vassal House in Cambridge, which Gen. WASHINGTON made his headquarters while stationed there.

But the close of the Revolutionary War brought sad reverses of fortune to Mr. TRACY. British cruisers had seized many of his privateers; and, through some unlucky mercantile transactions, he was stripped of his vast wealth, and compelled to retire to his farm in Newbury, which had been secured to his family by his father. Here he spent the remainder of his days. During his prosperity, he was universally loved and honored; and, in his adversity, he retained the esteem of his fellow-citizens.

The mansion, after being vacated by Mr. TRACY, went into the possession of Hon. JONATHAN JACKSON, his brother-in-law and former business-partner, who for several years occupied it with his family, and by his intellectual qualities and courtly manners, added to the great moral purity of his life, made it an attractive centre of the refined society of the period. It was the birth-place of his sons, of whom a contemporary writes, "CHARLES, counsellor at law, and judge of our Supreme Judicial Court; JAMES, physician, and professor at Harvard University; and PATRICK TRACY, manufacturer and railroad constructor, — have never been surpassed in our country in their professions." During the visit of Gen. WASH-

INGTON to Newburyport in 1789, Mr. JACKSON loaned a part of his mansion to the town authorities for his entertainment. LAFAYETTE, as guest of the town, TALLEYRAND, Marquis DE CHASTELLUX, BRISSOT DE WARVILLE, LOUIS PHILIPPE, and, it is believed, other distinguished persons, partook at different times of its hospitalities.

But the mutations incident to the affairs of men again brought a change in the ownership of this property; and we find the house at a later period used as a hotel, kept by JACOB COBURN. As such, it became famous; and possibly some of the copperplate engravings of it may still be in existence. Soon afterwards, it went into the hands of JAMES PRINCE, who was at one time collector of the port. The house, in consequence, has become better known to the present generation as the "Prince House." Mr. PRINCE was a gentleman of wealth and influence, who, by his frank manners and generous disposition, did much towards reviving the early splendor of the house. After the decease of Mr. PRINCE, it went through the various vicissitudes incident to being rented as a dwelling-house, until it finally has been purchased and occupied for its present use.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

RECEIPTS.

Amount received from			Subscriptions,	$18,375 00
"	"	"	City Lyceum,	1,898 78
"	"	"	Accumulation of Interest,	754 79
"	"	"	Sale of Iron Fence, &c.,	440 05
"	"	"	Rent,	60 00
"	"	"	Returned Premium on Insurance,	39 64
				$21,568 26

EXPENDITURES.

Purchase of House and Land,	$6,000 00
Improvements,	10,314 96
Deposited in Savings Bank,	5,000 00
	$21,314 96
Cash on hand,	253 30
	$21,568 26

While the subject of a formal dedication of the new building was in contemplation, the authors of the following effusions were invited to contribute some poetic tribute for the occasion; which they kindly consented to do. The spirit of each breathes such warm interest in the enterprise, that, aside from their intrinsic merits, they are justly entitled to preservation in this connection.

ODE.

BY REV. GEORGE D. WILDES.

Gather them here around, —
The guests of thought, the friendships of the mind;
Kinglier than kings, nobler than conqueror crowned;
Sovereign o'er human kind.

With glad hearts greet them here,
Noiseless and voiceless though they enter in;
Yet shall the quickening throb, the lightsome hour,
Reward the welcoming.

What though no high acclaim
Lifts its full thunders round these ancient walls;
What though no pæan sounds the patriot's fame,
Or valor's deed recalls;

What though, from court and throne,
Hither the wandering exile comes no more,
Freedom's warm heart and Freedom's home his own,
All that it gave of yore;

Relentless though the years
To dim the glories of thy storied day,* —
Wealth's generous heart, the household joys and fears,
Forever passed away:

Still, through each brightening age,
Hither, with cheer, the LIVING THOUGHT shall come;
Bard, patriot, chronicler, the wit, the sage,
Find, as of old, a home.

* In allusion to the fact that the Tracy Mansion was the temporary home of WASHINGTON, LAFAYETTE, TALLEYRAND, LOUIS PHILIPPE, the Marquis CHASTELLUX, and CHATEAUBRIAND, during their visits to Newburyport.

Gather them here around, —
The guests of thought, the friendships of the mind;
Kinglier than kings, nobler than conqueror crowned;
Sovereign o'er human kind.

THE LIBRARY.

BY MISS HARRIET E. PRESCOTT.

We consecrate the storied place
Their hallowed feet have trod
Who smoothed the way where Liberty
Leads up the arts to God.

They sowed; we reap and garner in
Such lettered treasure here,
That sweet enchantments of the pen
Rule all the atmosphere.

Here silently the poet's song
Perpetual music makes;
The forum, long since overgrown,
Its silver thunder wakes.

The drama's splendid phantoms here
Move real to the sense,
As heroes that once shook the world,
And, battling, vanished hence.

Turn but aside, and overhead
Ægean skies burn blue,
And to his crowd of eager Greeks
Homer recites anew.

A step, and Science to the search
Her awful gate unbars,—
The riddle of the earth is read,
The secret of the stars.

Kind Heaven, upon the finished work
Thy blessing we implore;
To fair and holy purposes
Serenely guide its lore.

Here may no tumult of the day
Its troubled shadow fling!
Within these cloistered walls may Peace
Forever fold her wing!

THE SCOTTISH ALCOVE OF THE NEWBURYPORT LIBRARY.

BY WILLIAM WALLACE MORLAND, M.D.*

Amang your buiks and treasures fine
Whilk lang ye've bin collectin',
There's some ye maun invite to shine:
Guid faith, they'll bear inspectin'!

Ye canna miss auld Scotia's sang;
Ye maun hae ilka story,—
The lays o' luve, the claymore's clang,
The legends and the glory.

Lang syne, wi' history weird and gray,
Buchanan sate, deep musing
How best the truest things to say
Where mickle was confusing.

* Dr. MORLAND is of Newburyport parentage, and of Scottish descent.

Gie *him* a niche amang the great
And classic o' your sages:
My troth, ye never need be blate
When turnin' o'er his pages!

To him who wrote o' "Wallace wight,"
But nameless left his verses,
Ye'll surely gie a welcome right
To store what he rehearses,

Wi' gentle Ramsay's pastoral sweet,
And Tannahill's winsome singing,
And Motherwell's strain that gars ye greet,
Its mournfu' music bringing.

An alcove for the Minstrel's lays,
And tales o' wondrous beauty,
Where wild Romance her witcheries plays,
And Honor walks wi' Duty.

A plaintive tone from Katrine comes,
And through the mountain-passes
A solemn sound like muffled drums,
Or midnight-chanted masses.

Lo! Roderick bold beside the grave
Where sleeps the wizard sweetly;
And, sword in hand, Fitz-James the brave;
And Ellen tripping featly.

And Flodden's heroes, sweeping by,
Here pause wi' drooping banners;
While Rose and Flora linger nigh,
Wi' lords o' many manors.

O Robie Burns! sae tender-true,
 Sae leal, sae manly-hearted!
Auld Scotia lang and sair maun rue
 Thy harp o' harps departed.

Ye'll hae *his* carols on your shelves;
 And there at morn and gloamin',
Wi' dainty dance, the merrie elves
 Will in and out be roamin'.

Wi' drouthie Tam ye'll tak a ride
 Past Alloway's ghaistly shadow;
Or "pu' the gowans fine" that hide
 In hazel-copse and meadow;

Or roam by Clyde's or Lugar's stream,
 By Lomond's frowning ridges,
Or where Ayr's siller waters gleam
 Beneath the neebor bridges.

Your Scottish alcove thus to fill,
 My humble plea I offer:
It will na, sure, o'ertax your skill,
 Nor much deplete your coffer.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

OF THE

NEWBURYPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY.

THE Newburyport Public Library, although assuming but modest proportions, and having had only a few years' existence, has still, as we may hope, sufficiently won the confidence of the community to justify the expectation that it hereafter is to be cherished as an institution of substantial public usefulness. A sketch of its history, therefore, will not be void of interest.

It was founded in September, A.D. 1854, by the Hon. JOSIAH LITTLE, who gave to the city the liberal sum of five thousand dollars for the object. Hon. CHARLES JACKSON and Col. SAMUEL SWETT, of Boston, added large donations in books and money. The terms of the donation were as follows: —

"We the subscribers agree to furnish the Mayor and Aldermen of the city of Newburyport with the books, or sums of money, affixed to our names, to form a Public Library for the use of the inhabitants of said city, to be

managed by said Mayor and Aldermen, and their successors in office, as trustees; and also for the use of the inhabitants of the towns of Newbury and West Newbury, equally with those of said city, provided said towns pay their proportion of the expenses of managing said Library compared with those incurred by said city for that purpose, said proportion to be in the ratio of the respective appraisement of said city and towns in the State valuation; and also that said towns pay one per cent jointly per annum on the cost of the apartments or building employed for said Library; the General Regulations of said Library to be adopted by the City Government of Newburyport."

On the 18th of September, 1854, the Mayor laid before the City Council the above communication, which was referred to the Joint Committee on Public Instruction.

The Committee on Public Instruction reported, on the 2d of October, as follows: —

That we recommend the acceptance of the proposition, as made in the communication of the Hon. JOSIAH LITTLE, Hon. CHARLES JACKSON, and Col. SAMUEL SWETT; and also that Ward Room No. 4 be appropriated for the Library, and that the room be prepared for that purpose.

A committee was appointed to prepare Rules and Regulations for the government of the Library.

On the 20th of November, the Mayor presented the Report of the Joint Special Committee appointed by the City Council to prepare Rules and Regulations for the Library; which was accepted, with the

Rules and Regulations; and the following order was adopted: —

Ordered (the Common Council concurring), That a Public Library is hereby established, to be called the Public Library of the city of Newburyport, founded by the Hon. JOSIAH LITTLE.

An ordinance was also passed by the City Council, defining the various duties of the trustees in relation to the care and control of the Public Library.

A committee, consisting of the Hon. MOSES DAVENPORT, Rev. L. WITHINGTON, Rev. L. F. DIMMICK, Rev. D. T. FISKE, and NATHANIEL HILLS, Esq., was appointed by the founder for the purpose of selecting and purchasing the books for the Library.

The books having been purchased, and prepared for the shelves, on the 5th of September, 1855, the Library was opened for public use; and the occasion was made interesting by an appropriate address, delivered by the Rev. D. T. FISKE, D.D.

It being deemed advisable, after consulting the founder, to delegate the immediate charge and control of the Library to a body of citizens less connected with the affairs of the city, the City Council, on the 17th of December, passed an ordinance, entitled "An Ordinance concerning the Public Library," which provided for the election of a Board of Directors, to whom should be delegated the care and

superintendence of the Library. On the 27th of January, 1856, the Board was duly constituted in the manner prescribed in the fifth section of the ordinance; and, on the 7th of February following, the first meeting was held at the Mayor and Aldermen's room, when the Board was duly organized; and the members thereof, who were chosen by the concurrent vote of the City Council, were, agreeably to the second section of the ordinance, divided by lot into two classes, — those of the first class to serve until January, 1857; and those of the second class to serve until January, 1858.

This ordinance was repealed in August, 1863, to give place to another which went into effect at that time, and under which the affairs of the Library are at present administered (see Appendix).

In March, 1857, by the decease of the late MATHIAS PLANT SAWYER, Esq., of Boston, the city received the sum of five thousand dollars through a bequest made by that gentleman, the terms of which were, —

"I give to the city of Newburyport the sum of five thousand dollars, in trust, to hold the same, and invest and reinvest the same in such public stocks as the government of said city for the time being may think best; and to pay over the income thereof, as often as once in each year, to the persons having the control and charge of the Public Library in said city, to be by them invested in the purchase of books."

Mr. SAWYER was a gentleman of refined tastes, and

took this method thus gratefully to remember his native place. By means of the Sawyer Fund, the Library has been enabled to purchase a moderate supply of new works each year; and, as this bequest has been its only source of income, the service it thus has rendered may be regarded as of the utmost consequence.

In the fall of 1865, the Library was removed to the new hall on State Street. The books were there arranged and classified in alcoves, in accordance with the arrangement of the room. The classification was divided under eight general heads; viz., History, Biography, Fiction, Travels, Morals and Politics, Science, Belles-Lettres, and Religion.

On the first day of January, 1866, the Library was re-opened to the public, under such favorable auspices as, it is hoped, will secure for it a long career of public usefulness. It only needs that those, who, cherishing a love of literature themselves, desire also that a similar taste may be more widely disseminated, and more abundant facilities supplied for its gratification, should take a deeper interest in the welfare of this institution, and, by judiciously presenting its appeal for support to men of wealth and generous purposes on whom our community has some claim, enable the Library thereby to obtain the means for it to accomplish more efficiently its beneficent design. Its present income is by far too limited to meet the wants of the community. In consequence of the in-

creased cost of books, the fund affords only a very moderate supply of the new publications, leaving entirely out of sight the necessity of substituting new ones in place of those that from time to time wear out and are discarded from the shelves. Such a fund is needed as will be adequate to procure all the useful publications as they issue from the press, and also to purchase duplicate copies of many of the more popular works, as well as to provide a new supply for those that wear out. To obtain this much-needed increase, we must depend upon the willing hearts of those who have been blessed with a large share of this world's goods, and who can enjoy the luxury of doing a good action.

Of the persons named in connection with the establishment of the Library, Col. SAMUEL SWETT* is the only survivor; and he, by his continued active interest in its welfare and progress, has contributed much towards its success. At the time that the munificent gift for the establishment of the Library was made, and before the fact had become publicly known, Col. SWETT was making strenuous exertions among the friends and natives of our city in Boston for the accomplishment of the same object; tendering for the purpose his own large and choice collection of books, which he afterwards forwarded

* It is with feelings of sorrow that we learn, while these sheets are passing through the press, of the decease of Col. SWETT, who died at his residence in Boston in the eighty-fifth year of his age.

as a donation to the Library. Having passed here the days of his youth and early manhood, he now, in his advanced years, turns his ripened affection to the place of his nativity, where the ashes of a loved and highly-honored parent repose.

Commending anew the interests of the Library to this community, and to its friends elsewhere, the hope is confidently expressed, that the favor which it has received heretofore is but an earnest of that which is to come.



APPENDIX.

THE following ordinance now regulates the management of the Library: —

CITY OF NEWBURYPORT.

AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Be it ordained by the City Council of the city of Newburyport as follows: —

SECTION 1. — The Mayor and Aldermen of the city of Newburyport shall be Trustees of the Public Library of said city; and, as such, shall have and exercise a general supervision over its affairs.

SECT. 2. — Immediately after the passage of this ordinance, the Directors of the Public Library, excepting those only who are directors *ex officio*, shall be divided by lot into seven classes of one each: the first class shall serve until January, 1864; and, of the remaining classes, the term of one class shall expire in January of each subsequent year; and no one shall be re-elected within one year after the expiration of his term of office. And hereafter, in the month of January, annually, there shall be elected by the concurrent vote of the City Council, voting by ballot, one legal voter of the city, who, together with the six remaining in office, and the Mayor, and President of the Common Council, *ex officio*, shall constitute a Board of Directors of the Public Library. The director elected in January, annually, shall hold his office for seven years. Such directors

shall hold their office until their successors are chosen. Vacancies may be filled at any time in the manner above prescribed.

SECT. 3. — The Board of Directors shall have the general care and superintendence of the Public Library; make all purchases and exchanges of books, and cause the same to be kept in good repair; prescribe the duties of the Librarian, and have the control and direction of that officer in the discharge of his duties; and establish all convenient and necessary by-laws and regulations to be observed in the use of books, and determine the fines and penalties to be incurred for their non-observance, provided that all such by-laws and regulations shall be approved by the City Council before taking effect.

SECT. 4. — A Librarian shall be appointed and his compensation fixed by the Board of Directors in the month of January, annually, who shall hold his office for one year, and until his successor is appointed, subject to removal at the pleasure of the directors. He shall perform any and all the services in relation to the Library, and obey and enforce all such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors. He shall act as their Secretary, and keep full and accurate records of their proceedings, and an account of all receipts and expenditures of the Library.

SECT. 5. — The Board of Directors shall, at the first meeting of the City Council in the month of December, annually, present a report exhibiting the condition of the Library, the number of books added during the year, an account of all receipts and expenditures, and such other information or suggestions as they may deem proper.

SECT. 6. — All fines and penalties which may be incurred under the rules and regulations shall be collected by the Librarian, and paid over monthly to the City Treasurer, to be by him passed to the credit of a fund to be called the Public-library Fund. All moneys which may be received under the provisions

of Sect. 7 of this ordinance, and all appropriations by the City Council for the benefit of the Library, shall be credited to the same fund; and from it shall be paid, upon the approval of the Board of Directors, the salary of the Librarian, and all expenses incurred in the repair of books and in the keeping and enlargement of the Library.

SECT. 7. — The inhabitants of Newbury and West Newbury, above the ages of sixteen years, can receive all the privileges of the Public Library, provided the said towns pay annually, in the month of January, their proportion of the expenses of managing said Library, compared with those incurred by the city of Newburyport for that purpose, — said proportion to be in the ratio of the respective appraisements of said city and towns in the State valuation; and also that said towns pay one per centum per annum on the cost of the apartments or building employed for said Library.

SECT. 8. — The ordinance concerning the Public Library, passed Dec. 17, 1855, is hereby repealed.

In Common Council, Aug. 3, 1863.
Passed to be ordained.

B. GARDINER GERRISH,
President.

In Board of Aldermen, Aug. 3, 1863.
Passed to be ordained.

ISAAC H. BOARDMAN,
Mayor.

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